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SOURCE Journal du Commerce et de la Marine.

DEVELOPMENT OF SYRIAN INDUSTRY

[The 5 November 1952 issue of the Cairo Journal du Commerce et de la Marine published a report on the development of Syrian industry, released by the Secretariat General of the Arab League. Highlights of this report follow.]

Syrian industry developed considerably during World War II. Following the lifting of the French mandate, the Syrian governments did everything to protect and encourage industry by means of long-term loans and the recent adoption of a protective policy.

Principal IndustriesCement

The first cement plant was founded in 1931 in the suburbs of Damascus; however, its production never satisfied more than a part of the national demand. The addition of a third furnace recently installed permits a production increase.

A new cement plant was founded in Aleppo in 1951, raising total cement production to 46,372 tons for the first 6 months of 1952.

Fruit and Vegetable Canning

The canning industry prospered during the war because of import restrictions, but declined again after the war. However, new, modern plants have been founded, and recent protective measures decreed by the authorities give hope for a revival of this industry.

Glass

An attempt at founding a glass industry was first tried during the time of the French mandate but ended in complete failure, and the plant was closed. After the last war, a large, modern 1,000-horsepower plant was established in

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Damascus, with an annual production capacity of 20,000 tons. This plant has produced all kinds of articles, such as candy dishes, bottles, etc. Part of its production is exported to neighboring countries.

Sugar

A modern sugar refinery has been constructed in Homs, and large neighboring areas have been planted with sugar beets. The refinery also produces alcohol, glucose, and starch and refines the crude red sugar. About 20,000 tons of red sugar were refined in 1950.

Tanneries and Leather

The tanneries annually produce 1,500,000 feet [sic] of leather of all kinds, as well as 750 tons of soles. It is hoped that production will meet the national demand in the near future.

Soap and Vegetable Oils

The soap and vegetable oil industry made an advance, following the expansion of cotton cultivation; more cotton seeds are now being supplied to the factories. Seven million olive trees produce more than 90,000 tons of olives, two thirds of which goes to oil presses. A certain amount of oil is exported to neighboring countries. Production is 10,000 tons of oil per year, an amount in excess of local demand.

Spinning and Weaving

The spinning and weaving industry is one of the most important in Syria. At the beginning of 1952, there were 583 spinning and weaving mills, with 114,264 spindles and 3,642 looms.

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